

BOSTON.

LITERARY, ART, AND THEATRICAL GOSSIP.
A FEW PROMISED BOOKS—THE PLANS OF THE
PUBLISHERS—THE ART MUSEUM—THE COMING
AMERICAN SEASON—MR. GILMORE AND
HIS PLANS.

BOSTON, July 27.—The unprecedentedly protracted heat makes the market for the season duller than it has been in the summer months. Even the body is out of town; and everybody else fancies himself and looks upon an interval of rest as only a lull in the heat, but a few gleamings may be made at the risk of a sunstroke, which are at the service of THE TRIBUNE readers.

The next number of *The Atlantic Monthly*, for September, is to contain a somewhat elaborate biography of Mr. Charles F. Smith, by Miss Kate Field, the facts obtained from an authentic source.

The North American Review for July is not yet out, but is promised for Saturday. It is to be made more attractive than its recent predecessors by an essay by Prof. James Russell Lowell, on "Chaucer."

Already the plan of one of the gift-books of the Christmas season is divulged, though the period of its issue seems so remote in these days of ice-cream and the mercury in the nineties. This is Charles Dickens's sketch, "A Child's Dream of a Star," one of the pleasantest minor essays of his *Household Words* editorship, in the usual holiday garb of heavy paper and red-line borders, with drawings by Mr. Hammett Phillips. The enterprise is one of the schemes of Field, Osgood & Co.

Miss Robert's books are getting ready for the Fall. A long list of books, already mentioned in this correspondence. The volume by Miss Christine Rossetti, "Companions and Other Stories," consists of eight stories of magazine length, some of them written many years ago. It is receiving the highest commendations from the London critical press. They will issue in the Fall imported editions of two very pretty books for children, in the form of a picture-book, "The Old-Fashioned Girl."

No one of literary tastes, who knows Boston ever so slightly, can fail to have the sympathies excited by the results of the recent fire in extinguishing which the book-lovers of Little, Brown & Co. were drenched with water. To be sure, the careful firm was fully insured, so as to cover all pecuniary damage; but the book-lover cannot look on the damaging of such beautiful, rare and costly volumes without a painful emotion. It is like the destruction of a library—the store, indeed, being the tributary stream by which many libraries are supplied.

Messrs. Lee & Shepard will speedily publish a thin duodecimo volume on the history of the book-trade in Boston, from the time of the first printing-press, to the present time. The author, a Boston correspondent who has lately made the circuit of the world on a letter-writing mission, and who devoted several months in the Celestial Kingdom mainly to study of these classes likely to seek their condition by coming to this country. The book will be timely, and will attract attention as treating the subject from a somewhat novel point of view.

ART MATTERS.
Art matters are sleeping a Summer slumber as complete as the long nap of the hibernating bear. One little beside the treasures of last Winter, rearranged a little from month to month. At Williams & Everett's I discover one vast I have not seen before, "The Quindron Girl," by Anne Van Wart. It is the maiden of one of Longfellow's early anti-slavery poems:

"Her eyes were large, and full of light,
Her arms and hands were white,
Her garments were all of white,
And her hair was like the light."

The artist has given the girl a low forehead and sunken lips; but there is such intellect and refinement in her face that the bust might be accepted as a portrait of some member of the Woman's Club. Possibly the poet is rather to be held responsible, however, for he says in the next stanza to the description I have quoted:

"And on her lips there played a smile,
As a low forehead and sunken lips,
As a low forehead and sunken lips,
As a low forehead and sunken lips."

The gallery vacated by the removal of "The Battle of Gettysburg" has been occupied by one of Mr. Bierstadt's latest pictures, "The Emerald Pool," a White Mountain subject, treated very much more tamely than Mr. Bierstadt's usual manner. Mr. Thomas Hill, who, it was said, was about to remove to New-York, has decided to remain in Boston, having received orders for pictures during a recent visit to Pennsylvania, and he has been profitably employed at his studio here for two years.

The Art Museum corporations are nearly all out of town, Summering in their cottages along the shore; but the enterprise is not dormant, for the Executive Committee have advertised to architects for a plan for a building, offering to pay \$200 each for the six best sets of designs from which to choose the structure.

THEATRICAL MATTERS.
No sooner had Mr. Cheney "finally" decided upon and "positively" announced the name of the season of the year time as "The American Theatre," than he was beset with letters and personal appeals from people who remonstrated against the name as at once unattractive, uncouth, and inappropriate. The newspapers were all against it; the dictionaries gave no encouragement for the use of the word, and very few people liked it. So at last the proprietor has abandoned the title he had chosen after months of deliberation, and from the hundred or so of names suggested from all quarters has selected "The Grand Old Theatre," which is simpler, more impressive, more euphonious, and suggestive of the most glorious days of the English drama. And unless a multitude of irresistible remonstrances spring up against this title also, the stone-cutters will proceed forthwith to chisel the new name into the arch over the entrance. Both the auditorium and the stage are busy scenes of renovation and repair. Mr. Fechter has just returned from the 26th, and soon after his arrival the company will begin to rally, and the rehearsals of the first great show-piece, "The Grand Old Theatre," will begin.

Today will be the piece will run three months. The fact that Mr. Selwyn had hired a house for permanent occupancy at Roxbury became known before his business plans were divulged; and hence arose the flourishing crop of rumors which assigned the popular manager in turn to about every theatre in the city except the one from which he has reluctantly retired. Of course such a claim would be untrue, and the manager of the Boston Theatre. This seems somewhat a desecration in dignity to be sure from his former position; but it is capable of being made one of the best places in town, and affords an excellent opportunity for rivalry with the new management on the opposite side of Washington.

There are not wanting other indications that the coming season in the dramatic world will be one of the most successful ever known in Boston, and that the great auditorium of the Boston Theatre is preparing for it with the expenditure in repairs of \$25,000 from the pockets of the ambitious stockholders who get only \$24,000 a year rent for their house. The annual meeting of the corporation a few days ago, was marked by the same futile remonstrances against the course of the ring controlling it, which have become familiar, and had one exceptional feature in a proposition emanating from the ring itself, to sell the theatre property. This proposition was so shrewdly for the last five years have made money enough to allow the whole concern, without aid from a minority of discontented stockholders, who have been the cause of the theatre's ruin.

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